



<http://www.w5fc.org>

Tom General KE5ICX, Editor October 2009

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

DARC Club Meeting - Tuesday October 6
Burger House (Informal Meet Up) Dinner 6:00 PM
Brookhaven Church Business 7:00 PM

DARC Board Meeting - Tuesday October 6
Brookhaven Church 6:00 PM

Dallas RACES Training Net - Sunday October 18
146.88 MHz 8:00 PM - 1st & 3rd Sundays
Everyone is invited to listen, but only RACES
appointed stations are permitted to participate.

DARC Meeting on the Air - Sunday October 4
146.88 MHz 7:00 PM - 1st & 3rd Sundays
Now available through Echolink Node 37247

DARC board meetings are open to anyone who
wishes to attend, visit, and observe.

NTS DFW Early Traffic Net - Every Day
146.88 MHz 6:30 PM - every evening

**DARC Special Event:
The McKinney Trolley Anniversary**



Scott KE5DKV, Randy KE5JIT, Roger KE5YTA, and Nick NK5LF take a "time out" before "showtime".

On Sept. 26th, 2009 the DARC supported the 20th anniversary of the McKinney Trolley system. The event included a parade running the length of the trolley system with five vintage trolleys, old and new fire engines, marching bands, Star Wars Legion, and Corvette hobby group.

The DARC supported the event by providing radio communications along the parade route and a working HF station at the Trolley Barn.

The HF station was manned by Bernie W5BP and Mike KM5Z using a smallish dipole connected to a ladder line. In spite of all the

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
PO Box 744266 Dallas, TX 75374

2009 DARC Officers and Directors:

President	Randy Patterson KE5JIT
Vice-President	David Best KD5RYM
Treasurer	Bob Kelly KE5PHX
Secretary	Scott Drummond KE5DKV
Director 1	Karl Borchardt KE5AVE
Director 2	Herman May KE5HYW
Director 3	James Shugart N5BKL
Director 4	Tom General KE5ICX
Director 5	Kevin Harkins W5DJK
Director 6	Scott Clark N1SAC

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club, Inc., founded in 1914, is an ARRL-affiliated Special Service Club, and is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations to the DARC qualify for tax exemption.

Club meetings are always open to anyone interested in amateur radio. To contact us email: info@w5fc.org.

Our repeater Trustee is Johnny Davis K5JD. Our repeaters are located in the city of Dallas and are available for the use of all licensed amateur radio operators, subject to the repeater guidelines set forth in the official DARC website, w5fc.org.

The repeater auto-patch is for the use of DARC members only. Any club member may obtain the patch code and instructions by contacting the Secretary at secretary@w5fc.org. Also contact him if you have lost your membership roster password.

DARC REPEATERS:

2m	146.880 out	146.280 in
	110.9/110.9	
	Echolink Node: 37247 / W5FC-R	
1.25m	224.880 out	223.280 in
	110.9/110.9	
70cm	442.425 out	447.425 in
	110.9/110.9	

Cover Photo: Mike K5MIC poses with "SAX", Arnold Paddock, and one of the conductors on "Rosie" the 100 year old street car. Mike was "shadow" on "Rosie".

Your letters to the editor or articles for *In the DARC* are welcomed. They may be edited for length or style, and they may or may not be published. The DARC accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the contents of this newsletter. Reproduction is permitted provided that this newsletter and the original source are credited.

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signal loss they were able to make two contacts - one in Arizona somewhere with a guy running a FLEX-5000 on 20 meters, and I don't have the location of the second contact. It did generate some interest in folks visiting the garage, particularly the people who work for MATA also supporting the event.



Bernie K5BP and Mike KM5Z generate interest in HF at the Trolley Barn.

The parade got underway at 10AM with DARC members providing shadows for key MATA personnel and parade route intersections. The group utilized the 70cm DARC repeater with good results.

President's Corner



By Randy Patterson, KE5JIT@ARRL.NET

As we head into the last three months of 2009 and the final months of my presidency I'd like to see the DARC continue building on its future.

Your current board has experienced a very active two years, some joining in 2009, and we've already started planning events for 2010.

I challenged all members of the Board to come prepared to discuss events to cover January, February and March, so that the next Board will have events in place at the start their administration club activities.

Anyone interested in hearing what your Board members have in store for 2010 are welcome to attend our October Board meeting to hear more.

As President, I had submitted to the Board members and received approval to prepare a metropolitan wide event involving all ARC's in the North Texas area who want to participate.

Due to Field Day and other events with all ARC's in the area, there was limited planning time to work on location and details for this event in 2009.

I am, however, still committed to making this happen in the March or April timeframe of 2010. So if you start hearing something about this, don't panic, this should a fun event – hope to have some mentoring classes, etc. We are planning this to be both an indoor/outdoor event.

I have always worked towards moving the club forward with communications and being able to work with members of our own membership and other ARC's in the area. Let's all pull together, get this event planned, advertised and make it a great success!

Remember, we reserve a segment of time during our General Meeting called "Five Minutes with the President".

This time is set aside for anyone to ask questions from any of DARC Board and for us to respond. Come prepared with your questions.

Honest and open discussions are important for any club to grow and prosper.

There was a presentation by a DARC member during the September meeting for a change to the DARC Bylaw.

Please read the article "Proposed Change in DARC Bylaws" for details and then plan on attending the October meeting for this vote.

E-mail to the President:

Is the club having any more donated equipment sales?

Response:

We had a slew of 'em when Don was Pres, but I think it was just a circumstance of 1) some OM passing away, or 2) crusty equipment buildup...

Yes, we hit a dry spell. Will will be having an equipment sale soon!

We have leftovers from the old van and just last week was donated an antenna (still in the box) and amplifier.

Stay tuned! Randy

The DARC has had equipment sales based on surplus items donated to the club and was not used as part of our communications plan.

We have had several e-mails that have offered equipment for us to purchase due to loss of a loved one. We have referred this information to our members who participate in estate sales and other equipment sales.

The DARC is not in the business to purchase equipment and turn it around in resale to raise money. We do, however, accept donations of equipment and if not used, offer to our membership at a discounted rate – based on the going price from e-Bay. If it does not sell within 30 days, then we offer to the public for sale.

I do not believe it has anything to do with who holds the office for the club.

We have received four donations in the past 21 months. Some of this equipment was placed in the van and the remainder is in storage to place on our website for sale.

Please view the following website. It has a great collection of DARC event pictures.
<http://picasaweb.google.com/ke5icx>

The Loaner Program has been non-existent for over a year. This program was put in place for members to borrow equipment for 30 days, and could extend up to a maximum of 60 days to determine if they wanted to purchase that type of equipment.

The Board agreed to stop this program last year.

If you have club equipment, regardless of who you are (exception – John – club antenna), that belongs to the DARC, please return it to a DARC officer immediately so they can bring to the October meeting.

We are trying to get a good inventory of what equipment, supplies and tools we have, what we need, and what we can offer for sale. We would like to add profits from the sale to our treasury before 2009 closes.

DARC Meetings is a gathering to discuss your club; its functions, events, offer suggestions,

recommendations, and provide input of what you would like to see happen or maybe voice your opinion about the club.

If you have an issue with the club or one of its members, then attending club meetings and bringing the issue up for discussion is where it is to be handled.

It should not be discussed on the repeaters as "I did not go, was not sure if I could keep my mouth shut."

We are all adults and should act accordingly. Our repeaters are to be used to communicate and have fun not to advertise our disgruntled attitudes towards others.

The 20th Anniversary McKinney Avenue Trolley Parade Celebration was held on September 26th. The weather was great and participation for this event was enjoyed by new and old hams alike.

We had KF5CBQ Jason, one of our newest members work his first event and K5MIC Mike joined us after being inactive in events.

Special thanks to W5DJK Kevin, our Public Service Officer for being able to bring this together and it run smoothly and successfully.

Thanks to KM5Z Mike and K5BP Bernie for manning the HF station and all the other operators who help make this a success.

There were three complaints this month about individuals and their behavior when using the W5FC repeaters.

The DARC Repeater is for all people who have an Amateur Radio License, regardless whether or not you financially contribute to cost of operating the repeater or club. It is open to our friends and visitors.

We expect everyone, visitor or member, to abide by the rules of the FCC and DARC Repeater Etiquette when utilizing any of our repeaters. If you are not able to do this, we politely request that you do not use our repeaters.

It is the responsibility of all DARC members to help police our frequencies and correct users if they are operating outside the guidelines of the DARC REPEATER ETIQUETTE which is published on the w5fc.org website.

We have been fortunate in the past 21 months to only have to shut down the repeater one time and we have not ignored our responsibility.

I have heard, and appreciate, our members who monitor and correct someone when they are out of line and I will support you if you run across any issues when correcting in the proper manner.

The Nominating Committee for 2010 has had their first meeting. We are looking for your input as to who you would like to see us contact for the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director 5 and Director 6 position.

Please send your comments and recommendations to us at:

w5fc.dallas@gmail.com

We are soliciting for candidates, with a minimum of one year membership, who want to be of service to the DARC, can commit to attending meetings, aware of what we have been doing, not interested in just maintaining status quo and holding a title but willing to participate and dedicated to moving the club forward and supporting the DARC Mission Statement.

If you are that person, we want you to step up and volunteer your expertise to the club.

We discussed having an Annual Event – some might want to call a Christmas Party for our meeting on December 1.

We are gathering some information on possible cost to be discussed during the October meeting.

The Boy Scout Jamboree on The Air is coming up on the 17th of October. The National Scouting Museum in Irving will be hosting JOTA this year. They are planning some new stuff so it's definitely worth a look. If you are able to volunteer please contact Tom Schuessler at N5HYP@arrl.net.

Friday & Saturday, October 9 & October 10, 2009 – we would like to see any many folks as possible to participate in the Paris Hamfest and to show KI5DX Richard our thanks for his support in helping us to obtain such a great price on the purchase of our trailer.

Friday night will have a live band and I will be the cook for an ole fashioned Fish Fry.

I believe they are working on getting some reduced prices from area hotels for anyone wishing to go up for the night.

The Regular Hamfest activities are on Saturday.

Our Program presentation for October will be by N5KD Pete on CW. We are looking forward to another great presentation from Pete.

I am looking forward to seeing you for the DARC October meeting.

'73's
Randy

Donations

The DARC received a donation this month from the family of N5EQQ – Thomas Shirley, who passed away March 2008.

Mr. Shirley and his wife used to attend Fox Hunts locally but she did not recall if he was a member of any radio club.

Mr. Shirley was a General Class Amateur Radio Operator who lived in Richardson.

Donated were:

- 1 - Mirage amplifier D1010 – new (still in the box)
- 1 - 1980's Ringo Ranger
- 1 – Cushcraft AOP-1 (still in box)
- 1 - Cushcraft A449-6 440-450 MHz (still in box)
- 1 – Wide Range Attenuator Model 371-1
- 1 – Chassis Box
- 2 – Homebrew switch boxes
- 1 – Grounding Rod
- 1 – Kit Attenuator A13 (in box –not assembled)

We would like to thank the Shirley family for their donation to the DARC.

October Program Presenter: Pete Hicks, N5KD



We don't yet know what Pete will be presenting but we can count on some exotic DXpedition

location, interesting QSO stories, or just about anything Pete is passionate about. Pete is a popular speaker at club meetings and always fun to listen to! Mark this one on your calendar; Tuesday, October 6th. DARC meets at the Brookhaven Church, 13000 Marsh Lane, Dallas, TX. Meetings begin at 7PM in the basement of the church. All are welcome!

Lifewalk 2009



We will need operators to support this year's LifeWalk in Lee Park. This is an easy event where you'll need a handi-talkie (2m/70cm), headset, and about 3 hours of your time. You can support rest stops, SAG, and shadow positions. No mobile units are needed! Just you and your handi-talkie. Free participant parking is available for the event.

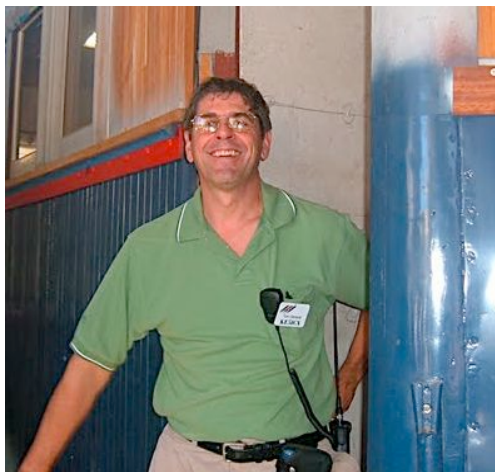
LifeWalk is set for Sunday, October 11th, 2009 at Lee Park and is a family- and pet-friendly event benefitting AIDS Arms, Inc. to raise AIDS awareness and funds to help HIV+ men, women and children in North Texas. LifeWalk is a 3.2 mile walk through Dallas' scenic Turtle Creek and Uptown. To date LifeWalk has raised and distributed more than \$8 million for AIDS services throughout the Dallas community.

This is a big, corporate sponsored event, with plenty of opportunities to meet and greet other volunteers in the community. Also, there's plenty of fun things to do before, during, and after the walk. Join us, for what is arguably the

most fun event on the DARC volunteer schedule.

Please contact our PSO for additional information: publicservice@w5fc.org

From the Editor



Three years ago I signed up to do this newsletter, in part because I wanted to inject computer savvy into the newsletter (live links, more pictures, and integration of DARC into Internet resources) and because I just like writing. To some, they may feel the Internet threatens our hobby, but I see just the opposite, I think it enhances our hobby by getting people who love computers and technology (and who doesn't!?), directly involved with our hobby.

About 8 months ago I was given co-responsibility to co-maintain the w5fc.org website. This actually was a great move forward for me as editor of the newsletter, and was much more natural than I expected. Since articles posted on the website were time sensitive, weekly or daily updates were common. This required I spend more time, in smaller portions, up “front” to make changes. Eventually I could just simply update those articles and post them, in a more complete form, in the the newsletter. This has reduced my preparation time for the newsletter and allowed both resources to compliment each other. It's not unusual to have the website refer to the newsletter and vice versa, making both

mediums more “organic” and useful. Also, by extension, I've posted audio from our Meeting on the Air on archive.org for a much larger audience to hear. I've also added recent additions of the newsletter, and found significant Internet traffic to the website. Of course the newsletter PDF also contains “hot” links back to the [w5fc](http://w5fc.org) website and email accounts. This symbiotic relationship should help promote our public presence on the Internet and in ham radio venues in general.

Also during this time I've added Twitter, email distribution lists, and Echolink to the club promotional tools. These items, hopefully, will provide a wider platform to capture new members and motivate members to sign up for our public service and club events. And, in fact, that seems to be the case. There's much more to do in this arena. Much like the newsletter is put together in a very deliberate way each month, this multimedia platform also needs this type of discipline and effort. Timely messages, website, posted archives and the like will preserve club “relevance” on the Internet. Nothing says, “old” than stale webpage links.

Currently I'm sending “Tweets” (text IM's) a few hours before “Meeting on the Air”, providing links on the Ustream and Echolink chat sessions during that net. We've also linked up via the Internet to the KC5OOS Wednesday night nets in Paris, TX. We've gotten positive feedback from DARC members who've checked in on that net. I think all these things help to promote the club, energize club members by allowing them “immediacy” to club events making them better informed and connected to the DARC.

The importance of the Internet, and all the resources it offers us as a club, will help to promote ham radio and DARC in the 21st Century. If we embrace these technologies and keep abreast of the constantly evolving characteristics of computer connectivity, we'll continue to attract new hams and keep present hams engaged and interested in our hobby.

Minutes of the DARC Board Meeting of 1 September 2009

Present

President	Randy KE5JIT
Vice-President	David KD5RYM
Treasurer	Bob KE5PHX
Secretary	Scott KE5DKV
Director 1	Karl KE5AVE
Director 2	Herman KE5HYW
Director 3	James N5BKL
Director 5/PSO	Kevin W5DJK

Absent

Director 4/Newsletter Editor	Tom KE5ICX
Director 6	Scott N1SAC

Guests

Bernie K5BP
Dave KD5IZF

The meeting was called to order by the president at 6:03 p.m. at the Brookhaven Church on Marsh and Valley View.

Introductions of board members took place by name and call sign for recorded purposes.

It was noted that a correction to the June 2009 board meeting minutes was in order pertaining to the attendance of Director 1 Karl KE5AVE. Karl was in attendance at that meeting.

The Nominating Committee will be announced at the DARC general meeting.

The following positions will need to be filled in the upcoming elections;

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director 5 and Director 6.

In discussing the DARC website Randy has recommended to the board to authorize Herman to make changes to the current CMS possibly to a different system that will be more manageable and user friendly.

It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to have training for the AED unit before the Turkey Trot event. Possibly in the month of October.

The generator is still having carburetor issues and will go into the repair shop tomorrow.

The DARC 440 repeater will be used for the upcoming McKinney Ave Trolley Parade.

Randy would like for all club officers and directors to have some ideas for club/trailer activities for the months of January, February and March 2010. These items will be discussed at the October board meeting.

The subject of the DARC having an end of the year/Christmas party will be brought to the members during tonight's general meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Submitted by Scott Drummond/KE5DKV

Regular Meeting of 1 September 2009

The meeting was called to order by the President of the club Randy Patterson KE5JIT at 7:05 PM at the Brookhaven Church, at the corner of Marsh Ln. and Valley View.

34 members/visitors were present.

Club members and guest were introduced by name and call sign.

Bernie K5BP led the club members and guest in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The program for this meeting was presented by Larry Essary K5XG on the subject of "RF and AC Grounding."

The meeting minutes for the month of August were approved.

The attending members were advised that there was a correction made pertaining to a board member missing 3 consecutive board meetings. The member was not absent from the June meeting, only late.

This years nominating committee will consist of the following members.

Randy Patterson KE5JIT, James Shugart N5BKL, and Scott Drummond KE5DKV.

The following positions will be open for nominations in the December elections;

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Director 5

Director 6

Any nominations for these offices can be sent to Board@W5FC.com or

W5FC.Dallas@Gmail.com.

Randy has requested and charged the current board to provide ideas for trailer events for the first 3 months of 2010. These ideas will be discussed at the October board meeting.

The time was turned over to Mont O'Leary K0YCN. Mont presented before the attending members an amendment to the Bylaws of the Dallas Amateur Radio Club which as follows:

Article V – Officials and their Duties

Section 1 currently reads:

Elective Officers: The following officers shall be elected by the membership as designated in the Bylaws and shall serve for an initial term of one year. Any or all, except the President, may be elected to succeed themselves for one year at a time not to exceed three (3) years in succession in the same position. The President may be elected to succeed himself for one year and may not serve more than two (2) terms in succession.

All officers shall serve without remuneration.

Section 1 shall be amended to read:

Elective Officers: The following officers shall be elected by the membership as designated in the Bylaws and shall serve for an initial term of one year. Any or all may be elected to succeed themselves for one year at a time. All officers shall serve without remuneration.

A survey will be put together and sent to club members via email and printed copy for those without email access on the subject of participation with the American Red Cross in acting as a unified group in providing communications in the event of emergency, distress, national disaster, or in any other issue pertaining to the public interest and emergency preparedness.

It was proposed by Randy that there be an end of the year/Christmas get together for anyone who would be interested. Anybody that would like to help with that activity can send an email to Randy at KE5JIT@yahoo.com. A vote on that subject will be held in the November meeting.

The DARC PSO Kevin W5DJK reported that there will be training and certification on the AED unit before the Turkey Trot event. Anyone interested in training can contact Kevin at Board@W5FC.com.

Kevin will also have certificates available to those who participated in the Red Hot Chili Pepper event.

September 26 is the McKinny Ave. Transit Authority Parade. Help is still needed for that event. Anyone who would like to help on that event can also contact Kevin W5DJK.

Life Walk will be coming up on October 11. All are invited to join in and help with that event as well.

The Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2009

Checking = \$11,637.73

Whit Griffith Fund = \$5,373.59

Pay Pal = \$0.00

Expenses = \$643.19 / Trailer
 \$100.00 / Donation to Brookhaven Church

The generator on the trailer is still having carburetor issues and will go into the repair shop tomorrow. The generator is still under warranty at this time.

New DARC members Katherine KE5ZCM (General) and Jason KF5CBQ (Technician) were voted in and welcomed by the attending members.

Bob KE5PHX won the Extra Class handbook in this month's door prize.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Submitted by Scott Drummond/KE5DKV

October Events

Date	Event
4	DARC Meeting on the Air at 7PM. Check in on the W5FC 146.880MHz repeater, or Echolink (W5FC-R).
4	Dallas County RACES Net, 8PM 146.70 Repeater
6	DARC Board Meeting, 6:00 PM Brookhaven Church (Basement)
6	DARC General Meeting 7:00 PM. Guest Speaker: Don Murray W9VE will be discussing HF antennas and coupling technologies.
11	<p>Lifewalk is a DARC supported event in Lee Park. We still need folks for rest stops. This is an easy, three hour event with plenty of family oriented activities, before, during and after the walk. Bring your family. Please contact the PSO at:</p> <p>publicservice@w5fc.org General information is available at: http://www.aidslifewalk.org</p>

18	DARC Meeting on the Air at 7PM. Check in on the W5FC 146.880MHz repeater, or Echolink (W5FC-R).
18	Dallas City RACES Net, 8PM 146.88 DARC Repeater
	<i>Red/Italic denotes a CHANGE in scheduling from last month. Please mark your calendar now!</i>

Other Events

10/02/09 & 10/03/09 – Belton Hamfest
 10/03/09 – Wish 100 Make-A-Wish Foundation Bike Rally
 10/09/09 & 10/10/09 – Paris Hamfest
 10/11/09 – Aids Arm Lifewalk
 10/17/09 – JOTA
 11/07/09 – Touched by Suicide Community Walk
 11/14/09 – NCTech 2009 Hamfest – Azle
 11/21/09 – Turkey Roll Bicycle Rally
 11/26/09 – The Turkey Trot
 12/13/09 – Dallas White Rock Marathon

QRT

Can you answer this question from the Extra Class question pool?

E4A06: Which of the following could be determined with a spectrum analyzer?

- A. The degree of isolation between the input and output ports of a 2 meter duplexer.
- B. Whether a crystal is operating at its fundamental or overtone frequency.
- C. The spectral output of a transmitter.
- D. All of these choices are correct.

Answer is: D. All of these choices are correct.

Learn more about it at:

http://www.radio-electronics.com/info/t_and_m/spectrum_analyzer/spectrum_analyzer.php

On the Internet:

The Global ALE High Frequency Network (HFN)



The Global ALE High Frequency Network (HFN) is a system of ALE base stations with internet connectivity. Each HFN Pilot Station is rapidly scanning the ALE Primary DATA Channels of the ham bands 3.5MHz to 28MHz every 10 seconds, monitoring for calls, and sounding with station identification callsigns approximately once per hour.

Ham radio ALE operators anywhere within the coverage area, may link with an HFN Pilot Station on HF, and send or receive short text messages via email or phone texting SMS.

<http://hfink.com/hfn>

QTH Ham Radio Ads

QTH.COM

QTH has long supported the amateur radio community on the Internet. They also permit free classified ads on ham radio equipment. They also provide a “swap meet” chat board so you can question others about the items they are offering for sale.

<http://swap.qth.com>

hfradio.org



NW7US is an active ham in Stevensville, MT. He provides great information on HF propagation and satellite operation, as well as a monthly podcast on “space weather and radio propagation”.

<http://hfradio.org>

ANZIVERSARY ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2009 AND THE DAY

